United Nations A/53/751

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 1998
English
Original: Russian

**Fifty-third session**
Agenda items 33 and 36

**Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies**

**Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe**

## Letter dated 15 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued on 11 December 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in connection with the meeting recently held in Oslo of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Kasymjomart Tokaev, took part.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 36.

*(Signed)* Akmaral **Arystanbekova**
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

98-39603 (E) 161298 171298

## Annex

# Statement issued on 11 December 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been authorized to issue the following statement in connection with the meeting recently held in Oslo of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in which the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. K. Tokaev, took part:

In the course of the aforementioned meeting, the Minister held talks with the OSCE leadership and the heads of delegation of a number of OSCE member States, during which a detailed exchange of views took place regarding the process of democratic reform in Kazakhstan. The head of the foreign policy department confirmed Kazakhstan's readiness to cooperate extensively with the international community on matters related to the further democratization of public life in Kazakhstan. This readiness was demonstrated by the signing at the meeting of the Council of a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Kazakhstan and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and an agreement on the establishment of an OSCE centre in Almaty.

In his statement, the head of the Kazakh delegation expressed Kazakhstan's commitment to fundamental democratic values and to the development of a genuine civil society in Kazakhstan. It is precisely this strategic goal which underlies the preparations for the forthcoming presidential elections, the first national elections to involve a choice of candidates.

During the meeting of the Council, a report and a press release were distributed by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights concerning the outcome of the visit by an expert group from the Office to Kazakhstan. These are not official documents, they were not included on the agenda of the meeting of the Council and they have no legal implications. Kazakhstan has noted the views and conclusions of the Office's experts. It is difficult to concur with many of them. Nevertheless, Kazakhstan shares the view of OSCE that there is a need for cooperation with respect to the further development of democratic institutions and the enhancement of legislation in this area. Kazakhstan welcomes the decision by OSCE to send observers to monitor the forthcoming presidential elections and confirms its readiness to create conditions conducive to the successful completion of their work.